Borough and Port of Sandwich.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1945

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee Borough of Sandwich.

I beg to submit my Report on the Health and General Sanitary Conditions of your Borough for the year ended December, 1945.

The year under review will be long remembered as one in which we saw the climax to a Global-War that for six years subjected your Borough to all those restrictions and inconveniences which must of necessity be concomitant with such disruptive social conditions.

It will be noted that, despite the unfavourable conditions prevailing, the health of the Borough has been satisfactory, the low incidence of infectiou disease being outstanding.

I should like to place on record my gratitude to the Borough Surveyor, Mr. T. Douglas, who as part-time Sanitary Inspector, has been of great assistance in helping me to compile the section dealing with the sanitary circumstances of the Borough, the bulk of the work having been carried out under the supervision of Dr. A. B. McMaster.

T. J. NICHOLL,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Borough of Sandwich is a market town surrounded by an agricultural area, and adjacent to important Colliery developments. It is enclosed by the Eastry Rural District as now constituted. The major portion of the area is low lying, but in the Southern portion the land is slightly more elevated. The whole of the northern part is low-lying marsh land on which is situated the so-called Port of Richborough, which came into existence in the war 1914-18.

Area (including inland water), 2,137 acres.

Population (census 1931, 3,687), estimated 1945, 3,140.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945), 1,175.

Density of population, persons per acre, 1.5.

Rateable value, £27,523.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £106 4s. 7.6d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births.

(1) Live Births:

	M.	F.	Ttl.
Legitimate	21	29	50
Illegitimate	4	1	5
	25	30	55

Birth Rate (per 1,000), 17.51.

England and Wales, 1945, 16.1.

(2) Still Births ... ... Nil

Deaths.

	M.	F.	Ttl.
Net total deaths in 1945	20	17	37

Death Rate (per 1,000), 11.7.

England and Wales, 1945, 11.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Cause, nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births 18.1

(England and Wales, 46 per 1,000.)

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births ... 20

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births ... Nil

Other Deaths—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 9

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ... Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH DURING 1945.

All Causes.	M.	F.
	20	17
Cancer of Uterus	—	1
Cancer of Breasts	—	4
Cancer of all other Sites	2	2
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	2	—
Heart Disease	5	3
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	—
Bronchitis	3	2
Ulcer of Stomach	2	—
Nephritis	—	2
Premature Birth	—	1
Other Violent Causes	2	1
All Other Causes	2	1

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officers of Health—

A. B. McMaster, M.D., D.P.H., Retired, 30th Nov., 1945.

T. J. Nicholl, F.R.C.S., D.P.H., Appointed 1st Dec., 1945.

Sanitary Inspector—

T. Douglas, F.San.In.Assoc., F.Inst.P.C., A.Inst.Mech.E., Part Time.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

(a) General: There is no general hospital in the Borough. Cases requiring treatment are largely dealt with at the Ramsgate General Hospital, the Kent and Canterbury Hospital situated at Canterbury, and the Victoria Hospital, Deal. These hospitals have efficient X-ray apparatus.

(b) Infectious: Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Eastry Isolation Hospital, which was re-opened in 1940.

Ambulance Facilities:

(1) For infectious cases: Cases are removed by the Eastry Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

(2) For non-infectious cases and accidents: The Borough possesses an efficient motor ambulance.

Maternity and Nursing Homes:

There are none in the Borough.

Professional Nursing in the Home:

No special arrangements have been made for this by the Authority.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Centre at the Masonic Hall is administered by the County Council.

Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease:

Arrangements are in the hands of the County Authorities.

Laboratory Facilities:

Clinical material is submitted to the County Laboratory, as are samples of milk, water, sewage, etc.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:

The water supply for the Borough is derived from the Corporation's Waterworks, situated at Woodnesborough, in the Eastry Rural District. From a deep well some 187,000 gallons of water is pumped every 24 hours, and is chemically treated prior to delivery.

(a) **Chemical Analyses:**

Description of sample of water taken from reservoir, 31/12/45:—

	Parts per 100.000
Total solid residue	43.5
Chlorine	3.4
Free Ammonia	0.0
Albumenoid Ammonia	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.3
Oxygen absorbed ¼-hour at 80F.	0.014
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 80F.	0.028
Nitrates	Absent

Remark: The water was of very good organic quality.

(Signed) F. W. ARNAUD,
Public Analyst for the County of Kent.

(b) **Bacteriological Examination:**

During the year samples of drinking water were sent to the County Laboratory each month for bacteriological examination. These reports showed a low count on only two occasions, and the Baccillus Coli was consistently absent. Good water.

Drainage and Sewerage:

Main drainage is provided for practically the whole of the Borough. The sewage is discharged into the River Stour at two outlets without previous treatment.

Number of premises connected to main drain, 1,200.

Number of premises connected to cesspools, 21.

Public Cleansing:

The collection of domestic refuse is carried out officially by the Corporation. House refuse collections are made weekly, and are dealt with by controlled tipping at the Richborough Road dump, and have proved quite satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:

The following are the particulars supplied to the Medical Officer of Health by the Sanitary Inspector with regard to the sanitary inspection of the area:—

No. of Inspections made during the year, 240.

No. of Notices served, statutory nil, informal 9.

Number and Nature of Inspections During the Year.

Nature.	Inspections.
Dwelling Houses	46
Bakehouses (5)	10
Food preparing places (4)	36
Factories and Workshops (34)	46
Dairies (3)	9
Infectious Diseases Inquiries	14
Miscellaneous	79

Defects Remedied During the Year.

Defective Sanitary Accommodation	15
Defective Drainage	36
Cesspools Abolished	1
Refuse Receptacles	10
Structural Repairs, Roofs, Walls, Floors, etc.	26
Defective Sanitary Fittings	3
Windows and Ventilation	5
Water Supply	4
Miscellaneous	16

Shops Act, 1934:

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made 96 visits in connection with the general administration of the Shops Acts. No formal action was found necessary.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are some 35 factories and workshops in the Borough which were regularly inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition, and well conducted. Minor defects found were remedied.

Rodent Control:

A part-time Rodent Officer is employed to carry out the work of rats and mice infestation.

During the year 14 complaints of minor infestations were received and satisfactorily dealt with.

Estimated number of rodents killed after prebaiting and poisoning, 82.

Examination of the sewers showed no signs of infestation.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:

Five complaints were received during the year and satisfactorily dealt with.

Re-inspections are made after disinfestation has been completed to ensure that proper precautions are taken to prevent re-infestation.

SECTION E.

HOUSING.

There was no change in the housing situation during the year; but houses were inspected upon complaint, and notices served in cases of urgent repairs being necessary.

Number of inspections made during the year, 46.

Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects fit for habitation, 16.

Number of houses rendered fit for habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority, 16.

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector made 52 inspections of the Bakehouses, Dairies, and other food preparing places in the Borough. No defects were found.

Meat:

At the commencement of the war all slaughtering in the Borough ceased, and this work is now carried out at Canterbury under the Ministry of Food Centralised Slaughtering Scheme.

Condemned Food:

During the year the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Eggs, 518; sausage rolls, 53 dozen; fish, 5 stone; cheese, milk, and other tinned goods, 8½cwts.

Ice Cream:

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, makes it compulsory for all premises used for the sale or manufacture for sale of ice-cream to be registered with the Local Authority.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Supply of Serum:

Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by the Council free of charge, and supplied to doctors for the use of their patients in the Borough. A supply of this serum is stocked at the Health Office.

Diphtheria Immunisation:

A scheme for the immunisation of children against diphtheria was adopted and came into force in the latter part of 1940. Up to the end of 1945 the results were as follows:—

Number of Children Immunised.

Under 5 years.	From 5 to 15 years.	Total.
140	266	406
50.55%	59.1%	57.83%

Disinfection:

This is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The Council does not possess a steam disinfector. Infected articles of clothing and bedding are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Eastry for treatment. Number of premises disinfected 6.

Verminous Persons.

There are no facilities for the cleansing of verminous persons in the Borough, but there are facilities for the disinfestation of clothing at the Eastry Isolation Hospital.

Infectious Diseases:

Scarlet Fever.—Three cases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria.—No cases were notified.

Enteric Fever.—No cases were notified.

Measles.—Six cases were notified during the year.

Pneumonia.—No cases occurred.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No cases occurred.

Tuberculosis.—Five new cases were notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1945.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65&over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—

Cases of Tuberculosis Remaining on Register, December 31st, 1945.

Male		Female	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
12	7	4	—

Whooping Cough.—Thirty-six cases were notified during the year.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Age Period												Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65			
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—
Measles	—	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	1	4	3	1	20	2	—	—	3	1	—	36	—	—

PORT AND HAVEN OF SANDWICH.

On the outbreak of war administration of the Port was taken over by the Admiralty. Close co-operation was maintained with the Royal Navy, and the facilities of the Public Health Department were at the disposal of the Officers concerned.